

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****January 26, 2016**

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**SUBJECT: SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT ISSUES  
ASSOCIATED WITH CONFLICTS LOCATED AT HIGHWAY LOOP 820 AT  
RANDOL MILL ROAD**

This Informal Report is to provide City Council with information about the additional costs and schedule delays on the Sanitary Sewer M-253 Replacement, Part 3 project.

On August 5, 2014 (M&C C-26911) the City Council authorized a contract with S.J. Louis Construction of Texas, Ltd., in the amount of \$15,281,160.85 for construction of South Shore Sanitary Sewer Replacement Main, Part 3. This project will provide a new 42-inch diameter Sanitary Sewer on Randol Mill Road from east of IH Loop 820 to Woodhaven Boulevard to replace existing Sanitary Sewer M-253 which has suffered failures and is at the end of its useful life. The contract was subsequently revised by one change order in the amount of \$97,000.00 (for a revised contract amount of \$15,378,160.85) administratively authorized on October 9, 2015 to address contaminated soils that were encountered during construction.

This project has experienced various issues and conflicts that have pushed the contract over budget and behind schedule. The primary issues that have created these overruns and delays are outlined below:

- A. While tunneling beneath East Loop 820, the contractor encountered a previously unknown utility line in direct conflict with the new sewer tunnel alignment at the west right-of-way line of East Loop 820. Staff and Atmos Energy both believe that the conflicting line belongs to Atmos and final verification is pending. Construction is stopped until the conflict is resolved (the City's contractor's boring machine is stuck at the conflict location and cannot be backed out of the tunnel).
- B. As a result of the conflict, it was also discovered that significant fill material had been placed over the City's utility easement (which is adjacent and parallel to the western edge of the IH-820 right-of-way and in which Atmos has installed gas lines from time to time), which may have contributed to the conflict described herein. The fill is approximately 26 feet above the original grade and contains various sized concrete rubble and other demolition debris. The fill material is being removed by the City's contractor to provide access to the utility conflict and allow for its relocation by Atmos Energy.
- C. To further compound the matter, a 36" city water main is located above the utility conflict, which limits the methods available to excavate and expose the underlying conflict. The water main provides water to the cities of Grand Prairie, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, and Hurst, along with DFW Airport. The City will replace an existing valve on the 36-inch water main near the conflict location with a new valve to allow pressure in the main to be reduced, or a total shut-down of the water main if necessary. These affected wholesale customers will be notified prior to any action on the water main.

Staff has negotiated Change Order No. 2 with S.J. Louis to remove the fill so that Atmos Energy can gain access to the conflict location, and, upon final verification that the line is theirs, relocate the conflicting utility. The change order will also allow for modifications to a segment of the project



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sewer main on piers and a connecting 10-inch sewer main due to actual field conditions that were encountered during construction. The estimated amount of this change order is \$700,000.00.

Staff is in discussions with Atmos regarding the cost of this work.

Additionally, staff is reviewing S.J. Louis's claim for other contract costs in the amount of \$653,580.00 for costs incurred related to delays and downtime due to the conflict. The estimated overall delay to the project schedule is eight months which moves the completion date from December 2015 to August 2016.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please contact Carman at 817-392-8243 or [carman@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:carman@fortworthtexas.gov)

**David Cooke  
City Manager**